

Mr. Hallett

OF THE

AND

FOR THE

1936.

Borough of Kidderminster.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December,

1936.

Health Committee.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR E. G. EDDY, M.B.E., J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR MISS E. C. ADDENBROOKE, J.P.)

Ex-officio.

ALDERMAN THOS. GRIFFIN, J.P. (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDREWS (Vice-Chairman).

ALDERMAN W. A. EDWARDS

COUNCILLOR G. E. LACY

„ W. T. PEARCE

„ G. ANTON

COUNCILLOR J. WRIGHT

„ O. W. DAVIES

„ H. W. CHESHIRE, J.P.

„ R. TIPLER

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the BOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JAMES R. CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :

J. CRISP GRIFFITHS, M.D. (Lond.).

MEDICAL OFFICER (INFANT WELFARE CENTRES) :

P. DIGBY GRIFFITHS, M.B., B.Chir.

PUBLIC ANALYST :

H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SUPERINTENDENT OF HOUSE

REFUSE COLLECTION DEPARTMENT :

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS E. E. MELLOR, S.R.N., C.R.San.I.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR :

J. WRIGHT CONCHIE, F.R.C.V.S.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1936 and 1935.

	1936	1935
Area of District in Acres	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1931	28917	28917
Estimated Population for Birth and Death Rate (mid-year 1936)	31760	31450
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated	9520	9183
No. of Persons per House	3.33	3.42
Rateable Value of Houses	£167413	£160117
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£633	£606
Number of Marriages	315	347
Number of Live Births	483	459
Nett Birth Rate	15.21	14.59
Birth Rate for England and Wales	14.80	14.70
Number of Illegitimate Births	32	18
Number of Deaths	405	420
Nett Death Rate	12.75	13.35
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.70	11.70
No. of Deaths under one year of age	28	28
Of these there were illegitimate	Nil.	2
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	58.00	61.00
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	59.00	57.00
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	2	1
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuber- culosis	25	24
No. of Deaths from Cancer	65	51
No. of Deaths from Influenza	5	7
Rainfall in inches	31.95	26.13

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births over Deaths increase.</i>
1932	455	359	96
1933	403	380	23
1934	440	388	52
1935	459	420	39
1936	483	405	78

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

TOWN HALL,

KIDDERMINSTER.

May, 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1936 upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough, this report being an ordinary Annual Report as laid down in Circular (269) of the Ministry of Health.

The more salient features of the year's work may be considered under the following heads :—

1. Isolation Hospital Accommodation.
2. Slum Clearance, including the Queen Street Clearance Scheme.
3. Housing Act, 1935 (now 1936).
4. Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

1.—Isolation Hospital.

For the first three quarters of 1936, the isolation of infectious cases was carried out in the old Hospital at Foley Park. This was closed at the end of September, not without feelings of regret, as the Hospital had served its day and generation well.

From the first of October, cases were sent to Hayley Green Hospital, administered by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee, upon which your Council have a proportionate representation. The change over was made smoothly and several minor adjustments of policy calculated to suit local patients and visitors were soon made. No doubt from time to time, other matters requiring investigation may arise, but if dealt with in the spirit of reasonableness which has characterized discussion to date, no apprehension need be felt. Moreover, proposed extensions at the Hospital will be carried out according to modern ideas of construction and will provide for patients from your area a standard of environment and treatment which in a Hospital serving a small area would be difficult to maintain.

2.—Slum Clearance.

The programme of slum clearance formulated at the end of 1933 under the five year plan was for 250 houses. By the middle of 1936, that total had nearly been reached. In all cases action had been taken under the Section of the Act (1930) dealing with Insanitary Houses. In this way, although no spectacular demolition operations were undertaken, many desirable improvements were effected, and numerous insanitary and unsightly properties which had for years been a public eyesore were swept away, such as Golden Fleece Row, Back Charles Street, Shakespeare Yard, Silver Street, Windmill Row, Primrose Hill and New Square, Chapel Street.

During 1936, your Committee, acting on representations from your officers, inspected the area of Queen Street and Back Queen Street, and decided that the only satisfactory method of dealing with the numerous insanitary houses was by means of a Clearance Scheme for the whole area, comprising 35 houses on the North side of Queen Street and 30 houses in Back Queen Street. The total of 65 houses contained 260 occupants, including children, and to re-house these as far as possible in the same locality, it was essential to include in the Compulsory Purchase Order an undeveloped area of land of about 9,700 square yards lying to the rear of Back Queen Street.

A Local Public Inquiry was held in November, 1936 by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, at which objections on behalf of the property owners were heard, and thereafter the Inspector made a detailed inspection of the area. The Scheme has since received the complete approval of the Ministry.

The collection and preparation of the mass of detailed information necessary for the presentation of evidence at the Inquiry involved a great deal of extra work in the Health Department.

Other Demolition Orders made during 1936 were in respect of the following properties :—

36 to 40, Marlpool Lane.
 School Cottages, Churchfields.
 72, Bromsgrove Street.
 Bk. 20, New Road.
 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, Silver Street.

At the end of 1936, the position of Slum Clearance Programme was as follows :—

1. Houses which have been demolished	...	...	224
2. Houses which have been made fit	...	...	22
3. Houses which have been put out of use for human			
habitation	...	...	19
			<hr/> 265 <hr/>

3.—Housing Act, 1935 (now 1936).

Abatement of Overcrowding.

The inspection of the Borough with regard to overcrowding was commenced early in 1936. The procedure involved notification of householders of intended visits, measuring up the floor space of rooms and calculation of permitted number of persons to each house, according to the scale laid down.

The Act lays upon the Local Authority the onus of abolishing overcrowding, either by interchange of tenants, or by provision of a sufficient number of new houses, whether built by themselves or by private enterprise.

The overcrowding survey was nearly complete in May, 1936,

and the Chief Sanitary Inspector made the following report :—

Number of Houses surveyed and enumerated ...	...	6,724
Cases of Overcrowding : (i) In Council Houses ...	...	75
(ii) In other Houses ...	...	86

The percentage of the total number found overcrowded is 2.39%.

The Act also lays upon the Local Authority the duty of informing the landlord or occupier of a house, upon request, of the number of persons constituting the permitted number for the house. This statement has to be inserted in the rent book or similar document.

This necessitates the measuring up of the living-rooms and bedrooms in each house and during the year over 3,000 houses were measured, and tabulated lists sent out to the various owners.

In order to ascertain the prescribed statement of permitted persons the Tables below were used as for the over-crowding enumeration.

TABLE 1.

Where the dwelling-house consists of :—

(1) One room	...	...	...	...	2 persons.
(2) Two rooms	...	...	...	...	3 persons.
(3) Three rooms	...	...	...	...	5 persons.
(4) Four rooms	...	...	...	...	7½ persons.
(5) Five rooms or more	...	...	...	...	10 persons with an additional 2 in respect of each room in excess of five.

(A room of less than 50 square feet is not counted as a room).

TABLE 2.

The aggregate number obtained by reckoning for each room a number of persons as follows :—

Where the floor area of a room is :—

(1)	110 square feet or more	...	...	2 persons.
(2)	90 square feet or more, but less than 110 square feet	...	...	1½ persons.
(3)	70 square feet or more, but less than 90 square feet	...	...	1 person.
(4)	50 square feet or more, but less than 70 square feet	...	...	½ person.
(5)	Under 50 square feet	...	...	Nil.

The measurement of the floor area should be made at the floor level, and should include bay window extensions and any area covered by fixed cupboard and projecting chimney breasts. The measurement should extend to the back of all projecting skirtings.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The object of this Order which came into force on the 1st June, 1936 (revoking the Milk (Special Designation) Orders of 1923 and 1934) was to clarify and simplify the standards of Milk as supplied to the public. The well-known name of "Grade A" is abolished and will, in future, be known as "Accredited Milk." The existing standards of cleanliness remained in force till 31st December, 1936, after which variation in the tests to be applied were laid down.

It might be convenient for reference to enumerate the special designations under the New Order, viz. :

"TUBERCULIN TESTED." It is milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test and it may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere. After the 31st December, 1936 it must satisfy a prescribed methylene blue reduction test for cleanliness and contain no coliform bacillus in one-hundredth of a millilitre.

If treated by pasteurisation, it must be described as "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised.)"

If bottled on the farm, the word ("Certified") may be added to its description.

"ACCREDITED." This is raw milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination ; it may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere. It must satisfy the same bacteriological tests as are laid down for raw Tuberculin Tested Milk.

"PASTEURISED." This designation applies to either "Accredited" Milk or ungraded Milk when treated by heat under prescribed conditions.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1.—Physical Features and General Character of the Borough.

There has been no alteration of any moment since my Report of 1935.

2.—Social Conditions and Employment.

The main industry is the manufacture of Carpets, and in addition, there are factories, and workshops carrying on the trades of Worsted and Yarn Spinners, Iron and Brass Founders, Brewers, Chemical Dry Soap and Oil Manufacturers, and a Sugar Beet Factory.

Employment was generally good throughout the year, and in the staple trade overtime was frequently necessary.

The following figures are of interest :—

Acreage of Borough	4,694 acres.
Population at Census, 1921	27,118
	} M. 12,298
	} F. 14,820
„ „ „ 1931	28,917
	} M. 13,331
	} F. 15,586
Estimated Population by Registrar- General Mid-Summer (1936) ...	31,760
No. of inhabited houses (1921) ...	6,780
No. of inhabited houses (1936) ...	9,520

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1936.

Total Births (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	508
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	15.99
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	14.8
LIVE BIRTHS :	M.	F.			
Legitimate	451	217	234	Total Live Births	483
Illegitimate	32	10	22	Birth Rate (Live)	15.21
STILL BIRTHS	...	25	Rate per 1,000 total births	...	49.21
DEATHS	...	...	405	Death Rate	12.75
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1936	...	12.1			
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions					39.50
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	...	...	from sepsis	...	1
			from other causes	...	5
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Total Births)	...				11.81
" " " (England and Wales)	...				3.65
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—					
Legitimate	...	28	Illegitimate	...	Nil.
Total					28
Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births	...				58
" " " (England and Wales, 1936)	...				59
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	62.08
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
" " Whooping-cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	2

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1936 are as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	28
Between 1 and 2 years	...	...	...	...	5
Between 2 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	3
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	...	...	10
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	...	...	12
Between 25 and 45 years	...	...	...	...	42
Between 45 and 65 years	...	...	...	...	90
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	215
					405

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred :—

Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
9	3	1	—	13	5	7	1	2	28

The causes of infant deaths were as follows :—

Premature Birth	...	9	Spina-Bifida	...	...	1
Congenital Heart	...	1	Pneumonia	...	...	4
Marasmus	...	3	Acute Gastritis	...	...	2
Melaena Neonatorum	...	1	Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	...	1	Meningitis	...	...	1
Haemorrhage of Newly Born	...	1	Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	1
Acute Bronchitis	...	1	Accidental Death	...	...	1

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE, AND SEX.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE.
1.—Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers...	—	—
2.—Measles	—	—
3.—Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough	—	2
5.—Diphtheria	1	4
6.—Influenza	3	2
7.—Encephalitis lethargica	1	1
8.—Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
9.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	11
10.—Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	4	3
11.—Syphilis	—	—
12.—General paralysis of the insane tabes dorsalis	1	2
13.—Cancer, malignant disease ...	27	38
14.—Diabetes	3	5
15.—Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ...	12	22
16.—Heart Disease	39	44
17.—Aneurysm	1	—
18.—Other Circulatory Diseases ...	9	16
19.—Bronchitis	8	6
20.—Pneumonia (all forms)	7	7
21.—Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	3
22.—Peptic Ulcer	2	1
23.—Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1	1
24.—Appendicitis	3	1
25.—Cirrhosis of liver	1	—
26.—Other diseases of liver, etc. ...	—	1
27.—Other digestive diseases	7	3
28.—Acute and chronic nephritis ...	11	10
29.—Puerperal sepsis	—	1
30.—Other puerperal causes	—	5
31.—Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ...	9	7
32.—Senility	8	4
33.—Suicide	3	0
34.—Other violence	7	4
35.—Other defined diseases	11	14
36.—Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—
	187	218

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL.—The Kidderminster Nursing Association, supported by voluntary Subscription and administered by a committee, provide a staff of four midwives and three Surgical and medical nurses. Their services are available on request of any practitioner. The latest summary of the work for twelve months gives the following figures :—

Number of New Surgical Cases Nursed	...	...	152
„ „ New Medical Cases Nursed	...	...	437
„ „ Midwifery and Maternity Cases	...	...	346
„ „ Convalescent Cases (general)	...	...	466
„ „ Attendances at Tuberculosis Clinic	...	...	689
„ „ Home Visits to Tubercular Cases	...	...	947
„ „ Ante-Natal Home Visits	...	...	982
„ „ Attendances at (Monthly) Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	206
Total Number of Visits Paid	...	...	18,169

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASE. No arrangements exist for professional home nursing of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis. Serious cases of pneumonia, complicated measles and whooping cough are nursed by the district nurses.

2. Midwives.

The number of midwives practising in the area is nine (in addition to those engaged in institutions), supervision being carried out by the County Council. Four of these are employed by the District Nursing Association.

3. Laboratory Facilities.

The County Analyst is the appointed examiner for water, milk and food samples and his services are available to all practitioners for examination of swabs, sputum, etc. (The epidemic of diphtheria) and the continued routine examination of the town water and the bacteriological examination of Milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, greatly increased the work of the County Analyst.

4. Adoptive Legislation in Force.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act (1890) ; Public Health Acts Amendment Act (1907) ; The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act (1890) ; Public Health Act (1925).

BYELAWS REGULATIONS AND ORDERS.

Nuisances, Snow, Filth, etc. ; Slaughterhouses ; Offensive Trades ; Common Lodging Houses ; Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ; New Streets and Buildings ; Factory and Workshops

4

(1) THE BOROUGH INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL (Closed 30th September, 1936). After this date, the Borough of Kidderminster became members of the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee administering the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green.

No. of beds (including Children's Beds)	...	225
Maternity Beds	... ..	4

Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays and Artificial Sunlight is also carried out, and there is a Massage Department.

Adults	...	1,365	732 belonging to the Country.
			633 belonging to the Borough.
Children	...	545	269 belonging to the Country.
			276 belonging to the Borough.

Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,499
Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,755
						TOTAL	...
							5,254

Total No. of Anaesthetics administered	...	...	...	2,407
No. of General Anaesthetics administered		...	...	2,193
No. of Attendances at Ophthalmic Clinic		...	...	1,267
No. of Radiograms	...	...	...	1,875
No. of Ultra-Violet Radiation Treatments		...	...	2,028
No. of X-Ray Treatments	...	...	...	35

(4). TUBERCULOSIS. The County Council maintain three Sanatoria in which cases from the Borough are treated.

(5). GREENHILL HOSTEL. Under the local branch of the Worcester Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work. Accommodation for 20 children and 14 mothers. Two qualified mid-wives are on the staff.

Births during 1936 :—Legitimate 3 ; Illegitimate 31. Total 34.

(6). LUCY BALDWIN MATERNITY HOME, situated at Stourport-on-Severn. Ninety-three cases from the Borough of Kidderminster were admitted in 1936. An Ante-natal Clinic is held on the first and third Fridays in each month at 1.30 p.m. at which mothers to be confined in their own homes may attend.

6. Ambulance Facilities.

(1). FOR INFECTIOUS CASES. From January 1st to September 30th, 1936, the Ambulance work in infectious cases was performed by your Council. Thereafter, the Ambulance service was provided from Hayley Green Isolation Hospital.

(2). FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES. Two motor ambulances provided by the Council, staffed by the Borough Police.

The Local Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade assist at week-ends and on special occasions.

7. Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Name.	Situation and Time of Session.	Average Attendances	Provided by
Maternity & Child Welfare Centres	(1) Prospect Lane Thursday, 2-4 p.m.	80	Local Authority
	(2) St. John's Institute Tuesday, 2.45-4 p.m.	36	
	(3) Orchard Street Mondays, 2.45-4 p.m.	45	
	(4) Sutton Park Tuesdays, 2.45-4 p.m.	38	
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster General Hospital Thursday, 2-4 p.m. and at 5-15 p.m.	11 per week	County Council
Venereal	Kidderminster General Hospital Males, Friday, 5.30 p.m. Females, Tues. 2.0 p.m.	16 „ „	County Council
Ante-Natal	Prospect Lane Monthly, on 1st Friday 2-30-4 p.m.	14 (per month)	Local Authority

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Four Infant Welfare Centres are still well attended, the total average of attendances each week being 199.

Home visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	3,390
Home visits to infants 1-5 years	...	...	4,346
Home visits to expectant Mothers	...	...	351
		TOTAL	8,087
Average weekly attendance at Sewing Class	...	...	35

The infant mortality rate, 57.9 deaths under a year per 1,000 live births, is slightly lower than that for England and Wales, viz., 59. Twenty-eight infants died during the year under one year of age. Of these eleven were due to congenital defects and two to inherited peculiarities of the blood. The infant mortality rate has for some years become stabilized at about the same figure, and it would appear that the benefits resulting from the spread of knowledge of the proper care and feeding of infants have reached a point beyond which further progress is unlikely. It is probable that any future reduction of the figure will accrue from a more intensive supervision and care of the mother during her pregnancy.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The year 1936 has provided the most unsatisfactory maternal death rate for some years, viz., six deaths giving a rate per 1,000 total births of 11.81, compared with a rate of 3.65 for the country as a whole. In no single case did any question of bad housing, overcrowding, malnutrition or poverty arise. In fact, the majority were from modern houses and in comfortable financial circumstances. One death arose in childbirth associated with heart disease. Two were due to eclampsia, both treated in hospital and in one of which Cæsarean Section was performed. Two deaths resulted from pulmonary embolism in cases with post partum sepsis.

These figures point to the necessity of extending the scope of ante-natal care, of increased collaboration between the clinic and practitioner, and clinic and midwife and also to a more extended use of the excellent obstetric specialist service organized by the County Council.

The number of notified cases were seven of puerperal pyrexia and three of puerperal fever.

Maternal Mortality Rates.

					From Sepsis	From Other Causes	Total
England and Wales							
per 1,000 Live Births	...	...			1.40	2.41	3.81
„ „ Total Births	...	...			1.34	2.31	3.65
Kidderminster							
per 1,000 Live Births	...	...			2.07	10.35	12.42
„ „ Total Births	...	...			1.97	9.84	11.81

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1936 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIDDERMINSTER**

**on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	6	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	47	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL ...	53	Nil.	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921))				
TOTAL ...	9	9	Nil.	Nil.

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources of water supply were exhaustively dealt with in the report for the year 1933.

Fortnightly samples were taken from the main bore-holes throughout the year, and were satisfactory. It was considered advisable to maintain the chlorination of the water supply. The efficacy of this process was checked by frequent sampling of tap water from all points of the town. In every case the report showed the water to be fit for drinking purposes.

TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR.

Samples taken from Taps at various premises	...	...	22
Samples taken from Borough Main Wells	...	...	29
Samples taken from Private Wells	...	...	6
Samples taken from Castle Road, Swimming Baths	...		2
			—
			59
			—

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Sewers generally have been maintained in good condition. The Sewer in Green Street was re-laid owing to numerous defects.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	3,257
(b) Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	252
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	29
(c) Total of Nuisances Abated and Sanitary improvements carried out as tabulated on pages 38, 39 & 40.				2,006

Closest Accommodation.

This is now almost entirely of the water-closet type, usually a pan and two-gallon flushing cistern, supplied with town water.

Approximate Number of Water-Closets in the Borough	...	7,500
Approximate Number of Privies in the Borough	...	8
Approximate Number of Portable Pan-Closets in the Borough		99

Schools.

A close liaison is maintained with the School Medical Officer in all appertaining to prevailing epidemics amongst school children.

No School closure during 1936 was found necessary.

HOUSING.

(a) Housing Conditions.

The following are the House Construction figures for 1936 :—

No. of Houses Erected :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
(b) By Local Authority (with State Assistance)	...						76
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...		313

The high level of house production of the last few years was maintained in 1936, the total being 389 and private enterprise being to the fore with 313 houses erected. The number of these houses which still find a ready sale has surprised even the most optimistic.

The contribution of the Local Authority was 76 houses, most of which were allotted to tenants dispossessed by Slum Clearance or in the abatement of overcrowding. The year was made noteworthy by the fact the number of Municipal Houses topped the thousand mark, this fact being suitably marked by a ceremony. On 30th October, the 1,000th Municipal House was declared open by the Mayor (Councillor E. C. Addenbrooke) before many representatives and officials of neighbouring Authorities, who were afterwards entertained by the Chairman of the Town Planning and Housing Committee (Councillor G. S. Tomkinson, O.B.E., M.C.). The layout of the Housing Estates received much deserved praise.

As regards the future, a certain number of houses will be essential for the abatement of overcrowding. In addition, there are still many houses in the Borough whose very age defies attempts at successful reconditioning and year by year they will lapse in considerable numbers into the category of the uninhabitable. For these cases, new houses will be required, and in spite of rising costs and other serious financial commitments we can only look to the Local Authority to provide them. Such schemes need not be so elaborate as in the past, provided that the essentials of lighting, ventilation, and size of rooms are maintained.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1936.

Scarlet Fever.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which had raged for five years and reached its height in 1934 with 293 cases came to an end in 1935. Only 29 cases occurred in 1936, and these were sporadic in distribution, an odd case of mild character cropping up now and then.

No. of Cases Notified	...	...	...	...	29
No. of Cases Isolated in Hospital	...	...	...	...	22
No. of Non-Borough Cases admitted to Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Case rate per 1,000 living (Borough)	...	...	...	...	.91
Case rate per 1,000 living (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	2.53
No. of Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Diphtheria.

The number of cases notified during 1936 was 56, showing a reduction over the previous year of 18. The case rate per 1,000 of population was thus, 1.76, being slightly above that of England and Wales, viz., 1.39. Some of the notified cases were "carriers." Nine were notified from the Kidderminster General Hospital during the first quarter of the year. More stringent examination of admissions, made possible by the addition of an extra House Surgeon to the Staff, has resulted in improved figures from that Institution. There were five deaths during the year. The severe type of diphtheria has prevailed during the year.

No. of Cases Notified	...	...	...	...	56
No. of Cases isolated in Hospital	...	...	...	...	47
No. of Non-Borough Cases admitted to Hospital :—					
(a) from their own areas	...	...	...	...	1
(b) from Kidderminster General Hospital	...	...	...	...	6
Case-rate per 1,000 living (Borough)	...	...	...	...	1.76
Case-rate per 1,000 living (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	1.39
No. of deaths from Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5
No. of Tracheotomy Cases	...	...	...	...	1

Enteric Fever.

One case of para-thyoid was notified from the General Hospital, the disease having been contracted outside the Borough.

Anthrax.

Three cases were notified during 1936, these were admitted to the Kidderminster General Hospital where serum treatment soon led to rapid recovery.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during
the Year 1936.**

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Diphtheria	56	47	5
Scarlet Fever	29	22	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	3	1
Puerperal Fever	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	7	6	1
Pneumonia	63	37	14
Anthrax	3	3	Nil.
Erysipelas	22	4	Nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	1	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	Nil.
Acute Polio-encephalitis ...	1	—	Nil.
Acute Polio-myelitis	—	—	Nil.

Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Age Groups.	DISEASES.												Polio-encephalitis
	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Encephalitis Lethargica	Anthrax	Cerebro Spinal Fever	
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	10	7	1	—	—	—	—
1—2 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
2—3 years	—	1	2	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
3—4 years	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5 years	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	—	7	19	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	8	17	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	3	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 years	—	6	4	1	3	7	9	—	3	—	1	—	1
35—45 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	12	—	4	—	—	—	—
45—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	5	2	2	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	—
TOTAL CASES	—	29	56	1	3	7	63	7	22	2	3	—	1

The following table gives the number of cases of Notifiable Diseases received in 1936 and the nine previous years.

DISEASES.	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	56	74	32	1	9	18	32	14	16	10
Erysipelas	22	26	34	10	9	2	14	16	23	15
Scarlet Fever	29	111	293	142	104	154	112	30	91	14
Typhoid Fever (Enteric)	1	—	—	10	—	2	4	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	7	7	5	5	5	7	14	8	7
Puerperal Fever	3	—	4	—	5	2	1	3	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	6	4	4	5	3	2	1	3	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	36	42	52	42	35	30	32	38	37	38
Other Tuberculous Diseases	11	14	35	24	30	33	24	43	38	26
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	63	53	36	36	20	11	11	27	49	28
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anthrax	3	5	4	2	6	1	3	3	—	5
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	241	340	503	280	229	261	243	187	270	150

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases usually come under the care of the Ophthalmic Surgeon at Kidderminster General Hospital. The following table for 1936 cases show the results of treatment :—

CASES			Vision Un- Impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
7	1	6	6	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

Year.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living.
	New Cases.	Deaths.	New Cases.	Deaths.	
1932	35	10	30	8	.62
1933	42	17	24	4	.80
1934	52	27	35	10	1.20
1935	42	18	14	6	.76
1936	36	18	11	7	.78

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	...	...	...	1	3	2	2	—	1	—	—
10 to 15 years	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	...	...	...	1	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
20 to 25 years	...	...	...	2	—	2	1	1	2	1	—
25 to 35 years	...	...	...	7	7	1	1	3	3	—	—
35 to 45 years	...	...	...	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	2
45 to 55 years	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	17	19	6	5	7	11	4	3

The improvement in the position of the Borough as regards Tuberculosis noted in 1935 has been maintained in 1936, both as regards the number of new cases reported and the number of deaths. More extended use of X-Ray examination, especially amongst contact cases, has led to the earlier detection of the disease and to some cases which formerly might have been overlooked. Municipal houses have been made available in several cases during the year, so that segregation of the infected person in the household can be more satisfactorily carried out.

There is no doubt that many chronic cases of tuberculosis were at one time overlooked, perhaps not coming under medical care or being regarded as bronchitis. If the more intensive search for cases now being pursued should reveal what may appear to be a disturbing number of fresh cases, it will prove the most beneficial policy in the end, though it may be some years before lasting improvement in our statistics is effected.

The Tuberculosis Officer assigned to this area by the County Council is a very keen and efficient officer and meets with general acceptance in his clinic and visiting work.

CANCER.

This disease ranks second only to Heart Disease in the list of causes of death. The annual figures from 1927 to 1936 are as follows :—

34, 56, 55, 40, 56, 33, 41, 43, 51, 65.

The age period of deaths in 1936 are here set out :—

Male. Female. Total.			Male. Female. Total.		
Under 25 yrs. —	1	1	55–65 yrs.	4	15
25–35 yrs.	1	2	65–75 yrs.	12	11
35–45 yrs.	1	2	75–85 yrs.	4	4
45–55 yrs.	4	3	Over 85 yrs.	1	—

Total deaths from Cancer : Male 27 } 65.
Female 38 }

Excellent facilities for diagnosis and treatment (Radium, X-Ray and Operative) are provided locally at the General Hospital ; cases requiring Deep Ray Therapy can be referred to the Birmingham Centre.

The crux of the Cancer problem is early diagnosis. The outlook for the patient to-day is much more hopeful, provided treatment is instituted in the early stage.

I beg to conclude my report with an expression of thanks for the support of all the members of the Committee. Each year the work of the Department increases in volume and importance, and there is no end to the stream of fresh legislation, each enactment bringing its quota of work and responsibility.

And to the Staff I give my best thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. CRAIG.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN.

I have much pleasure in submitting my Sixth Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1936.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT.

Excellent progress has been continued under the Housing Act, 1930, and at the end of the year under review, over 240 dwelling-houses had been demolished or put out of use for human habitation.

The total number of houses to be dealt with in the five-year programme, commencing September, 1933 is 250.

Council Houses. Housing Sub-Committee.

This Committee of which Alderman W. Pearce is Chairman, devote much time and attention in allotting the houses. The method of distribution and suitability is one which requires discretion and tact, and it is pleasing to record that the re-housing problems are carried out in an efficient manner and the Sub-Committee loyally co-operate with the Health Committee.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse continues yearly to require more attention and the consideration of more efficient methods of collection.

Since the year 1930, 2,172 houses have been erected in the Borough entailing a great increase in the organisation and collection of refuse.

The method of collection continues to be satisfactory, both from the viewpoint of cost and efficiency, though the various disposal sites require unceasing supervision.

From May, 1936, a section of Pike Mills, Green Street, has been utilised for the disposal of business and trade Refuse by incineration. This is a valuable asset to the Department, the premises being readily accessible, well situated for low transport

costs, and an excellent chimney stack which enables the process of incineration to be carried out free from any nuisance to the area.

No branch of sanitary science has advanced so rapidly during the past decade as that of refuse disposal.

Since the introduction of the Ministry of Health's Circular on Controlled Tipping, in 1922, many acres of land once designated as useless, have been brought back into use.

The net cost of collection and disposal will probably increase in proportion to the growth of new buildings, the gradual improvement in vehicle plant and disposal site control.

	£	s.	d.
The cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year 1936 was	4,224	11	1
The income was	253	10	1
The net cost being	£3,971	1	0

The total weight collected (estimated from periodic test weighings) 9,156 tons.

The net cost being 8s. 8d. per ton of refuse, for collection and disposal.

The following is a numerical summary of the year's work :—

Collection of Domestic and Trade Refuse.

Total No. of loads of Refuse, Night Soil, etc. removed (all vehicles)	7,782
Total weight of refuse, etc. removed (estimated from test weighings)	9,156 tons
Dry Ashpits emptied	124

Night Work.

Closet Pans emptied	4,059
Privies and Middens emptied	40
Cesspools emptied	6
Loads of Night-soil removed	319

Disposal of Refuse.

Tipped at Pike Mills (from May, 1936)	351
Tipped at Broadwaters	2,521 (loads)
Tipped at Foley Park	36
Tipped at Puxton	1,698
Tipped at Hoobrook	3,139
Tipped at Worcester Road	10
Miscellaneous Tippings	27
	<hr/> 7,782 <hr/>

Departmental Income.

The income of the Department was again of a varied nature mainly accruing from the removal of trade refuse, while other items adding to the income were the sale of manure, emptying cesspools and removing refuse from the Retail Market.

The total realised was £253 10s. 1d.

Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation.

Under section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, additional sanitary accommodation has been provided as follows :—

Nos. 189–191, Sutton Road	...	...	...	...	2
Nos. 34–36, Farfield	...	...	...	...	2
Nos. 1 and 2, Cross Street	...	...	...	...	1
Nos. 30–32, Lark Hill	...	...	...	...	2

Canal Boats Inspection.

Frequent visits to the canal and wharves during the year resulted in the inspection of eight boats registerable under the Canal Boats Acts. There were no infringements of regulations during the year and no case of infectious disease occurred on a canal boat.

The type of people met with during these inspections are always ready to render assistance and to comply with requests.

The following figures are a synopsis of the year's work :—

Total boats on register	...	...	...	...	24
Number of boats believed to be in use or available	...	...	...	...	24
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	8

Common Lodging Houses.

The eight registered houses in the Borough are the objects of frequent attention and are visited regularly. These houses have accommodation for 164 lodgers and are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Visits made to common lodging houses during the year ... 87

Factories and Workshops.

Following inspections of factories by H.M. Inspector of Factories, one communication was received from him calling attention to a defect requiring the attention of this Council.

The complaint was investigated and remedied, after an interview with the responsible person.

Slaughter-Houses and Knackers Yard.

We have, in the Borough, one registered slaughter-house, seventeen licensed slaughter-houses and one knackers yard.

These establishments are generally conducted in a satisfactory manner though the following points needed attention during the year :—

Limewashing of slaughter-house ...	...	...	...	8
Offal not removed ...	...	...	...	7
Regulations not complied with ...	...	...	...	3
Byelaw card defaced (new supplied) ...	...	...	...	3

1,400 visits were paid to slaughter-houses and a list of the meat condemned by reason of these visits will be found below.

During the year under review approximately 16,000 animals, (Cattle, sheep, lambs, pigs and calves) have been slaughtered for human consumption. Every effort has been made by your inspectors to examine all carcasses and organs, and this has entailed numerous visits outside the normal office hours, to the various scattered slaughterhouses throughout the district.

The following summary shows the food condemned during the year either as a result of routine inspection of meat in slaughter-houses or as a result of the inspection of food in the Public Markets or grocery shops.

Meat Inspection is chiefly carried out by Mr. J. B. Hinton who is fully qualified and it is pleasing to record that the work in this connection has, in the main, been helped by the confidence established between the Department and the Meat Trade as to the manner in which this onerous duty is carried out.

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1936.

CATTLE.

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4875 lbs. = 2 tons 3 cwts. 59 lbs.
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	409 lbs. = 3 cwts. 73 lbs.
Hydatid Cysts	...	...	...	...	308 lbs. = 2 cwts. 84 lbs.
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	154 lbs. = 1 cwt. 42 lbs.
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	784 lbs. = 7 cwts. 0 lbs.
Melanosis	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Pyæmia	...	...	...	...	568 lbs. = 5 cwts. 8 lbs.
Angioma	...	...	...	...	226 lbs. = 2 cwts. 2 lbs.
Immaturity	...	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Fatty Degeneration	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.
Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Bruised	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Strongylosis	...	...	...	...	101 lbs.
Fracture	...	...	...	...	82 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED—*cont.*

Decomposition	...	...	...	...	200 lbs. = 1 cwt. 88 lbs.
Visceral Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	221 lbs. = 1 cwt. 109 lbs.
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	896 lbs. = 8 c.wts. 0 lbs.

Total Weight Condemned 9,108 lbs.
4 tons 1 cwt. 36 lbs.

SHEEP.

Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	221 lbs. = 1 cwt. 109 lbs.
Strongylosis	...	...	...	...	78 lbs.
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	8½ lbs.
Suffocation	...	...	...	...	54 lbs.
Fatty Degeneration	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Parturition	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Bruised	...	...	...	...	26 lbs.
Dropsical	...	...	...	...	170 lbs. = 1 cwt. 56 lbs.
Echinococcus Cysts	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Decomposing	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

Total Weight Condemned 636 lbs.
= 5 cwts. 76 lbs.

PIGS.

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6849 lbs. = 3 tons 1 cwt. 17 lbs.
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	264 lbs. = 2 cwts. 40 lbs.
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	265 lbs. = 2 cwts. 41 lbs.
Parturition	...	...	...	...	300 lbs. = 2 cwts. 76 lbs.
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	262 lbs. = 2 cwts. 38 lbs.
Erysipelas (Swine)	...	...	...	...	242 lbs. = 2 cwts. 18 lbs.
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	64 lbs.
Fracture	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Emaciation and Dropsy	...	...	...	...	129 lbs. = 1 cwt. 17 lbs.
Septic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	57 lbs.

Total Weight Condemned = 8,556 lbs.
= 3 tons 16 cwts. 44 lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

10 Rabbits.	36 lbs. Pigs' Pudding.
1 Bottle Coffee.	10 lbs. Tongue.
42 lbs. Sausage.	1 Jar Mincemeat.
2 Pots Fish Paste.	3 Jars Pickles.
2 Turkeys (Imported).	1 Jar Spiced Tongue.
78 Eggs.	7 Jars Jam.
2 lbs. Mixed Fruit (Dried).	2 Bottles Sauce.
75 lbs. Bacon.	2 Bottles Gooseberries.
1 Jar Salmon and Shrimp.	159 Tins of Various Foodstuffs.
3 Pigs' Hocks.	

SUMMARY.

*Grand Total Weight Condemned : 8 tons 3 cwts. 44 lbs. (18,300 lbs.)
 " " " (Tuberculous) 5 tons 4 cwts. 76 lbs. (11,724 lbs.)

*Excluding Miscellaneous Condemnations.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The number of men licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to act as slaughtermen is 52, each of whom has been licensed for the maximum legal period of three years.

There has been no differentiation between men employed solely in the slaughter of one animal and those engaged in the work of general slaughtermen, and each is licensed to slaughter any animal.

The method of stunning pigs by the Electrolethaler is in operation at four slaughterhouses in the Borough and has proved to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

The inspection of bakehouses has again been carried out throughout the year and resulted in the bakehouses being maintained at the same high hygienic standard as previous years.

There are no underground bakehouses in Kidderminster and the 40 on the register are all well-constructed establishments, well-lighted and ventilated and quite satisfactory.

The following occasional matters required attention :—

Lime-washing of bakehouse	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty troughs and floors	...	...	...	...	1

The bakehouses were visited on 65 occasions during the year.

Offensive Trades.

The appended list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades.

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	32
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hide and Skin Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1

There is now one fried fish shop to every 992 inhabitants.

There has been great improvements in the equipment of fried fish shops during recent years and conditions are now fairly satisfactory.

96 inspections of offensive trade premises have been made during the year.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the above enactments we have registered the following :

Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	55
Wholesale Traders of Milk	...	...	...	...	33
Residents, Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	30
Residents, Cow-keepers	...	...	...	...	10

(The above figures are exclusive of small shops selling bottled milk only).

We have ten cow-keepers in the Borough who use fourteen cowsheds for the housing of approximately 148 cows. Frequent visits are made to the premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATIONS) ACT 1928.

SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS, 1901.

Set out in tabular form below are the results of the analyses of samples of milk taken under the above Regulations.

No.	<i>Total Solids.</i> %	<i>Fat</i> %	<i>Non-fatty Solids.</i> %
21 ...	12.7	3.7	9.0
22 ...	12.5	3.6	8.9
24 ...	12.6	3.6	9.0
25 ...	12.2	3.4	8.8
26 ...	12.8	3.9	8.9
27 ...	12.2	3.4	8.8
28 ...	11.4	2.5	8.9
39 ...	11.7	3.0	8.7
40 ...	11.8	3.0	8.8
55 ...	13.1	4.1	9.0
56 ...	11.9	3.2	8.7
57 ...	12.4	3.6	8.8
58 ...	12.1	3.2	8.9
59 ...	12.2	3.4	8.8
60 ...	12.4	3.5	8.9
61 ...	12.1	3.3	8.8
70 ...	13.1	4.3	8.8
71 ...	12.3	3.6	8.7
72 ...	12.7	3.9	8.8
73 ...	13.2	4.6	8.6
74 ...	13.2	4.5	8.7
75 ...	12.4	3.8	8.6
76 ...	12.6	3.8	8.8
77 ...	12.0	3.2	8.8
78 ...	12.5	3.5	9.0
79 ...	12.5	3.5	9.0
99 ...	12.8	3.9	8.9
100 ...	12.1	3.4	8.7
1 ...	12.7	3.9	8.8
2 ...	12.7	3.7	9.0
3 ...	12.3	3.7	8.6
4 ...	12.5	3.7	8.8
5 ...	11.9	3.2	8.7
6 ...	12.4	3.5	8.9

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples.	No. taken.	Bacteriological Count Per C.C.				Coliform Organisms Present in			
		Under 30,000	Under 200,000	Under 500,000	Over 500,000	1 c.c.	10th c.c.	100th c.c.	1000th c.c.
Designated Milks :—									
CERTIFIED ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRADE A. (T.T.) ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
GRADE A. ...	33	30	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
PASTUERISED ...	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
STERILIZED ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LOOSE MILK (Ungraded)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	51	48	3	—	—	—	—	5	—

FOOD SAMPLES, 1936.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

<i>Infor- mal.</i>	<i>For- mal.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Gen- uine.</i>	<i>Not Gen- uine.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
24	10	Milk	33	1	<i>One Sample deficient in fat.</i>
1	—	Butter	1	—	
1	—	Margarine	1	—	
1	—	Vita Cocoa	1	—	
1	—	Cream Cheese	1	—	

Public Health (Preservatives Etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925.

16	—	Sausage	16	—	
9	—	Brawn	9	—	
2	—	Meat Pies	2	—	
1	—	Saveloys	1	—	
1	—	Steak & Kidney (1 tin)	1	—	
1	—	Mixed Fruit	1	—	
1	—	Coffee Essence	1	—	
1	—	Cake	1	—	
1	—	Ginger Suet Pudding ...	1	—	
1	—	Tomato Sauce	1	—	

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

MILK.

The results of samples for bacteriological examinations are given on Page 33.

Ice-Cream.

Under this heading will be considered the examination of samples of ice-cream.

Eleven samples of this commodity were examined during the year and the results, tabulated below, indicate no marked superiority in the general standard when compared with the results obtained in this direction last year.

Four samples of ice-cream, which were manufactured by large concerns, were found to be of good bacterial standard and of good quality. The other samples, with bacterial counts numbered in millions, still show that unless legislation can be brought forward, strictly to control the manufacture of this article, the time taken in advising precautions and explanations is wasted.

RESULTS. ICE-CREAM.

No.	Bacteria per c.c.	B. Coli.	Fat %	Preservatives
41	2,420	Absent in 1 c.c.	14.2	None.
42	65,280	Present in 1/100th c.c.	15.4	„
43	2,780	Absent in 1 c.c.	11.9	„
44	6,080	Absent in 1 c.c.	5.2	„
45	19,040	Present in 1 c.c.		
		Absent in 1/10th & 1/100th c.c.	3.7	„
46	81,760	Present in 1/100th c.c.	7.5	„
47	8,580	Present in 1/100th c.c.	16.2	„
48	820	Absent in 1 c.c.	14.1	„
49	6,200	Absent in 1 c.c.	14.2	„

RAINFALL.

The rainfall for the year was again low but was, however, slightly higher than the previous year.

YEAR 1936. MONTHLY				RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS YEARS.			
INCHES.				INCHES.			
January	...	...	3.94	1927	...	...	32.51
February	...	...	2.56	1928	...	...	23.63
March	...	...	2.49	1929	...	...	25.36
April	...	...	1.52	1930	...	...	32.93
May	...	...	1.33	1931	...	...	30.43
June	...	...	3.62	1932	...	...	27.89
July	...	...	5.78	1933	...	...	20.06
August	...	...	.45	1934	...	...	21.38
September	...	...	2.86	1935	...	...	26.13
October	...	...	1.59	1936	...	...	31.95
November	...	...	3.21				
December	...	...	2.60	Average	...	...	27.23
Total ...			31.95				

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

During the past 7 years houses have been erected in Kidderminster as follows :—

1930	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
1933	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
1935	...	...	...	...	...	...	393
1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
Total							2172

During the past year the houses erected may be divided into two groups—

(a) As part of the Municipal Housing Schemes	...	76
(b) By private enterprise	... ..	313

making the total of 389.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	964
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	482
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	118
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	62
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	63
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	55

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	258
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	28
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By owners	14
(b)	Put out of use	14
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(b) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	457
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By owners	457
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(c) *Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13

(d) *Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.

Dwelling Houses.

Cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	106
Cleansed and whitewashed after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	49
Damp-proof courses put in	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired or re-paved	...	...	...	...	...	54
Walls and ceilings repaired, replastered or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	97
Damp walls abated	...	...	...	...	...	66
Defective dwelling house chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	6
New gratings and covers to cellars	...	...	...	...	...	—
Windows repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	17
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	16
New sash cords to windows provided	...	...	...	...	...	48
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Door sills, frames, etc. repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bedroom floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Pantries and kitchens lighted, ventilated and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Pantries provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dirty Houses (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective fastenments to windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	14
Banister rails repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	53
Dilapidated brickwork to fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	12
Verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Unfit rooms or houses reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	12
External woodwork painted, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wood Beams repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
						688

Wash-houses and Waterclosets.

Wash-houses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	63
Waterclosets limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	57
Wash-house floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Wash-house roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	33
Watercloset floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Watercloset roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Firegrates to washing furnaces repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	20
Brickwork to washing furnaces dilapidated	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sink waste pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Spouting provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Additional wash-houses provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insanitary tip or trough closets removed or converted	...	...	...	...	...	12
Brickwork to wash-houses or waterclosets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Woodwork to wash-houses or waterclosets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Waterclosets lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	7

Dilapidated and insanitary waterclosets taken down	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional waterclosets provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty W.C.'s (Tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wash-house chimneys repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	13
Flushing apparatus and fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	73
Entries, passages and cellars limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Boilers provided to washing furnaces	...	...	...	...	...	4
New glazed stoneware sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	35
Insanitary sinks taken down	...	...	...	...	...	20
Boundary walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective watercloset pan	...	...	...	...	...	47

575

Drains and Urinals.

Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drains repaired or re-constructed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Additional earthenware gullies put in	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grids provided to drains	...	...	...	...	...	—
New traps to waterclosets	...	...	...	...	...	3
New urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Channelling repaired	...	...	...	...	...	—
Watercloset pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
New W.C. pans provided	...	...	...	...	...	13

78

Privies, Middens and Panclosets.

Ashpits removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ash receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	124
Closet pans provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Additional panclosets provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

129

Rain Water Spouting.

New spouting or downspouts provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Spouting and cross channels cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	22

44

Water Supply.

New services of pipes laid on	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective services made good	...	...	...	...	...	16

37

Other Nuisances.

Dilapidated yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fowl-keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse and manure	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	6

 41
Other Work of the Department.

Drains tested for defects	...	...	...	...	...	16
Stoppages in W.C's removed	...	...	...	...	...	205
Stoppages in yard drains removed	...	...	...	...	...	193

 414

HOUSES INSPECTED DURING 1936.

FOR DEFECTS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Name of Road.	No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses in which defects were found.	Name of Road.	No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses in which defects were found.
Anchor Fields ...	2	2	Marlpool Lane ...	6	6
Baxter Avenue ...	6	6	Mill Street ...	28	28
Bewdley Hill ...	1	1	Mill Lane, Hoobrook ...	1	1
Bewdley Road ...	10	10	New Road ...	2	2
Bennett Street ...	1	1	Offmore Road ...	6	6
Blackwell Street ...	12	12	Park Lane ...	2	2
Broad Street Terrace ...	2	2	Puxton ...	2	2
Bromsgrove Street ...	28	28	Park Street ...	10	10
Broad Street ...	2	2	Pleasant Harbour ...	3	3
Brook Street ...	1	1	Peel Street ...	1	1
Borrington's Lane ...	1	1	Pleasant Street ...	5	5
Brussells Street ...	4	4	Pooles Terrace ...	3	3
Comberton Hill ...	3	3	Prospect Lane ...	4	4
Castle Road ...	9	9	Queen Street ...	8	8
Chester Road ...	14	14	Rackfields ...	14	14
Cherry Orchard ...	4	4	Radford Avenue ...	10	10
Churchfields ...	1	1	Reservoir Road ...	2	2
Clensmore Street ...	8	8	Rock Terrace ...	1	1
Claughton Street ...	1	1	Silver Street ...	1	1
Cobham Road ...	4	4	Shrubbery Street ...	3	3
Cookley Road ...	1	1	South Street ...	2	2
Coventry Street ...	1	1	Stourbridge Road ...	39	38
Crane Street ...	4	4	Stourport Road ...	9	9
Cross Street ...	5	5	St. Andrew's Place ...	4	4
Dudley Street ...	2	2	St. George's Terrace ...	2	2
East Street ...	4	4	Summer Row (Foley		
Edward Street ...	24	16	Park) ...	3	3
Findon Street ...	1	1	Summer View ...	4	4
Farfield ...	8	8	Sutton Road ...	11	9
Franche Road ...	1	1	Sutton Park Road ...	1	1
Garrick Place ...	9	1	Trinity Lane ...	1	1
George Street ...	5	5	Turks Head Entry ...	1	1
Hemming Street ...	6	4	Union Street ...	2	2
Hall Street ...	2	2	Upton Road ...	1	1
Hoo Road ...	1	1	Usmere Road ...	1	1
Horsefair ...	3	3	Vine Street ...	2	2
Hurcott Road ...	14	14	Washington Street ...	6	6
Habberley Road ...	2	2	Wood Street ...	12	9
Jerusalem Walk ...	5	5	Woodfield Crescent ...	8	6
Lark Hill ...	3	3	Worcester Road ...	26	25
Lea Street ...	4	4	York Street ...	5	5
Lion Street ...	4	4			
Leswell Lane ...	2	2		484	457
Long Acre ...	2	2			
Lorne Street ...	2	2			
Low Lane ...	3	3			

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received during the past year was more than the number received during the previous year, being 127 against the previous year's 101. To inquire into the causes of complaints and in some cases to see that the conditions giving rise to dissatisfaction were remedied 122 inspections were necessary.

These inspections showed that in 102 instances the cause of complaint was such as to justify action being taken by the Department. The action taken is either interview with the offender, or a preliminary notice calling attention to the cause of complaint, whichever is deemed necessary in the circumstances. The action taken was fruitful, in that in every instance the necessary work was carried out without the necessity of further action.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

Further Orders under this Act were made by the Privy Council during the year relating to the marking of imported chilled beef, frozen beef, frozen veal, frozen pork, frozen mutton, frozen lamb, boneless beef, boneless veal, salted beef, salted pork and edible offals.

The number of Orders now administered by this Department is seven and relate to imported frozen or chilled salmon or sea trout, honey, fresh apples, raw tomatoes, currants, sultanas, eggs in shell and dried eggs, oat products, butter, bacon and ham, salmon and sea trout.

The provisions of these necessitate regular inspection of the markets and a sharp lookout on the grocers' shops. It is found, however, that there is now no particular difficulty with traders and usually a request to supply an indication of origin is all that is necessary to secure compliance with the requirements.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects)	...	...	252
Statutory notices served (for housing defects)	...	...	29
Notices to provide portable ash receptacles	...	...	117
Threatening notices served	...	...	6
Notices to School Medical Officer	...	...	46
Notices to Head Teachers	...	...	64
Notices to Parents	...	...	52
Certificates granted for children to attend school	...	...	26

MORTUARY.

During the year 16 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 1,905 gallons of disinfectant fluid were distributed and 1,223 packets of disinfectant powder. 97 houses were disinfected by the Department after infectious and other diseases, etc. Miscellaneous disinfections were 12.

DISINFESTATION.

The disinfestation of various premises for the eradication of vermin has been carried out and supervised by the Department during the year, the amount of work entailed in this direction, being in most cases rather extensive, necessitating the temporary removal of skirting boards, architraves, etc. and the stripping of all walls.

No. of houses treated	28
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No. of Sulphur Candles given out	204
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In addition, the Department keeps a supply of various insecticides, which are used and distributed with discretion.

The treatment of premises by H.C.N. has not yet been resorted to

STEAM DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of articles of clothing and bedding was again carried out at the Borough Hospital by the Thresh Steam Disinfector and during the year various articles were steam treated.

In addition to those disinfected above, the following articles were destroyed either on account of vermin or infectious disease :—

29 Beds.	35 Articles of Bed Linen.
18 Mattresses.	2 Couches.
2 Overlays.	5 Bolsters.
3 Sheets.	Various Books.
24 Articles of Clothing.	17 Straw Rugs.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton, Mr. N. J. Williams and the staff, for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Addenbrooke, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.



G. T. Cheshire & Sons Ltd., Kidderminster.